

from one side of said sewing cuff, said fastener having an elastic limit and an initial shape; and

C) means for forcing said fastener through said sewing cuff and attaching said sewing cuff to the patient without exceeding the elastic limit of said fastener.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated 02/27/01, together with the references included therein, has been carefully reviewed.

Claims 4 and 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 for the reasons stated in the Office Action. Claims 1-20 stand rejected as being unpatentable under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting with regard to Claims 4-19 and 47-104 of US Patent 6,047,607. Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a), with the patent to Williamson, et al (US Patent 5,716,370) being cited as evidence in support of the conclusion that the invention defined in Claims 1-20 is not patentable under the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) because the present claims are by another inventive entity.

The claims have been amended as suggested in the Office Action to overcome the rejection based on §112. Therefore, no further comments will be directed to this rejection.

Enclosed herewith is a proposal for amending the drawings in accordance with the suggestion made in the Office Action. This proposal is made for the Examiner's review. If approved, the drawings will be amended when submitted as formal drawings upon

the indication of allowance for this application.

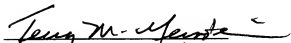
Enclosed is a Terminal Disclaimer terminally disclaiming the term of any patent issued on this application which extends beyond the term of US Patent 6,042,607. This disclaimer specifically states that the person signing the disclaimer is the attorney of record who is authorized to submit such a disclaimer in behalf of the inventors named in this application.

Also enclosed is a declaration from Mark Ortiz under 37 CFR 1.132 in which declarant states that his contribution to the present claimed invention specifically pointing out what limitations in the present claims are attributed to such declarant in collaboration with the other inventors.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections based on § 112 and § 103(a) have been overcome. Thus, no further comments will be directed to the art cited in the Office Action. It is also believed that the double patenting rejection has been overcome by the terminal disclaimer submitted herewith, and no further comments will be directed to that rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, this response should be entered and review and allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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